Sources of Non-Conventional Energy Production in Fifth Schedule Areas

640. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the sources of Non-Conventional energy production in the Fifth Schedule areas;

(b) whether any mini hydel power projects are allowed to be constructed by private entrepreneurs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The sources of non-conventional energy production, *i.e.*, solar, biomass, wind, hydro etc. can be harnessed in most areas, including Fifth Schedule areas, depending upon availability.

(b) and (c) Setting up of small/mini hydro power projects by private entrepreneurs in Fifth Schedule areas or elsewhere is governed by the policies of respective State Governments. However, alienation of land in such areas can take place only on the recommendation of the respective Tribes Advisory Councils and after a resolution has been adopted by the concerned Gram Sabha in respect of the land proposed for alienation.

Generation of Solar Energy

641. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of energy generated and distributed during the last three years under the Solar Photo Voltaic (S.P.V.) and Solar Thermal Electric (S.T.E.) programmes, by the Central Government in Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government propose to allocate more funds to promote solar energy in Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any fresh initiatives are being taken by Government to educate and encourage people to make more use of solar energy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) During the last three years about 8,01,366 kWh electricity is estimated to have been generated and distributed by installation of solar photovoltaic power plants in Rajasthan. In addition, a total number of 23,500 solar home lighting systems have been installed in Rajasthan during the same period.

(b) and (c) The Ministry provides financial support to the state agencies on the basis of proposals submitted by them as per the provisions of the schemes of the Ministry and the past performance of the implementation of the projects.

During 2006-07, a total amount of Rs. 90.25 crores has been earmarked for the solar energy programmes in the country including the State of Rajasthan.

(d) and (e) The Ministry is providing fiscal and financial incentives for promotion of solar energy devices and systems in the country.

A scheme on "Accelerated Development and Deployment of Solar Water Heating Systems in Domestic, Industrial and Commercial Sectors" is being implemented, under which soft loan is available to the beneficiaries through selected banks and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) for installation of solar water heating systems.

The Ministry has supported setting up of District Advisory Committee in each district under the Chairmanship of the District Collectors to create awareness on a continuing basis. The Ministry is providing financial support to organize the activities of the District Advisory Committees.

In addition, to create awareness and encourage people to use renewable energy technologies including solar energy, the Ministry is celebrating country wide Rajiv Gandhi Akshaya Urja Diwas on 20th August every year.